

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 02151 161556Z  
ACTION SS-25

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5109  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 2151

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST FROM AMBASSADOR STOESSEL

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, WB, US  
SUBJECT: STOBBE'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT

REF: USBERLIN 2134

1. DURING MY DISCUSSIONS WITH GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE LAST WEEK (REFTEL), HE OUTLINED FOR ME SEVERAL GOALS HE HAS SET FOR HIMSELF FOR HIS UPCOMING TRIP TO THE U.S. HE IS, OF COURSE, DELIGHTED TO BE ABLE TO MEET THE PRESIDENT AND HOPES TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE DISCUSSIONS. RECOGNIZING THE MEETING WILL BE SHORT, STOBBE SAID HE PLANS TO FOCUS DISCUSSIONS ON ONE OR TWO MAJOR TOPICS AND HOPES TO ACHIEVE SOME CONCRETE RESULTS WHICH WILL BENEFIT BERLIN.

2. BASED ON WHAT STOBBE TOLD ME AND WHAT OTHER MISSION OFFICERS HAVE LEARNED FROM SENAT OFFICIALS, WE EXPECT STOBBE WILL WISH TO BRIEFLY OUTLINE FOR THE PRESIDENT THE CURRENT BERLIN SITUATION WITH EMPHASIS ON THE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS PREVAILING IN THE CITY. STOBBE WILL PROBABLY EXPLAIN THE IMPORTANCE OF REVITALIZING AND EXPANDING BERLIN'S ECONOMY TO INSURE ITS FUTURE AND REVIEW FOR THE PRESIDENT THE  
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EXTREME IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUED U.S. AND ALLIED POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THE CITY IF IT IS TO FLOURISH.

3. STOBBE TOLD ME HE HOPES THE PRESIDENT WILL BE ABLE TO VISIT BERLIN IN CONJUNCTION WITH HIS FIRST TRIP TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. HE WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY INVITE THE PRESIDENT TO COME TO BERLIN AT SUCH A TIME. I STRONGLY

RECOMMEND THAT THE PRESIDENT BE PREPARED TO RESPOND IN THE AFFIRMATIVE TO THE GOVERNING MAYOR'S INVITATION SHOULD HE EXTEND IT.

4. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, STOBBE HAD HOPED SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE BERGLAND WOULD BE ABLE TO OPEN THE BERLIN GREEN WEEK AGRICULTURAL FAIR IN JANUARY 1978. I UNDERSTAND THAT SECRETARY BERGLAND HAS OTHER TRAVEL COMMITMENTS AT ABOUT THAT TIME WHICH WILL MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO ACCEPT. STOBBE MAY RAISE THE SUBJECT IN ANY CASE, AND WHILE IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR SECRETARY BERGLAND TO OPEN THIS YEAR'S FAIR, I WOULD HOPE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION WOULD BE GIVEN TO HIS DOING SO NEXT YEAR.

5. THE GOVERNING MAYOR ALSO HOPES TO WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY BLUMENTHAL TO VISIT BERLIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE. I UNDERSTAND SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL WILL BE IN BONN FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH FEDERAL GERMAN OFFICIALS NOVEMBER 3, AND IS PREPARED TO COME TO BERLIN FOR AN OVERNIGHT VISIT AT THAT TIME. IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND WELCOMED BY THE GOVERNING MAYOR WERE THE PRESIDENT TO OFFER TO HAVE SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL VISIT BERLIN IN NOVEMBER AS THE PRESIDENT'S REPRESENTATIVE TO FAMILIARIZE HIMSELF FIRST HAND WITH THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE CITY. THE BERLIN GOVERNMENT IS COUNTING ON INCREASED FOREIGN INVESTMENT, TRADE AND FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION IN ITS  
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ACTIVITIES AS A PART OF ITS ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION PROGRAM. A VISIT BY SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL COULD PROVE BENEFICIAL TO BERLIN'S ECONOMIC IMAGE AND PROVIDE A VITAL SPARK TO ITS ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FUTURE. IF IT WERE POSSIBLE TO ANNOUNCE A BLUMENTHAL VISIT AFTER STOBBE'S CALL ON THE PRESIDNET, STOBBE WOULD WISH TO PORTRAY SUCH A DEVELOPMENT AS A CONCRETE RESULT OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE PRESIDENT.

6. I RAISED WITH THE GOVERNING MAYOR THE POSSIBILITY OF A "FRIENDSHIP FORCE" VISIT TO BERLIN NEXT YEAR, RECALLING THAT BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. CARTER HAD MENTIONED THIS AS A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY TO CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT WHEN HE WAS AT THE WHITE HOUSE. STOBBE HAD ALSO HEARD THIS FROM THE CHANCELLOR AND WAS VERY RECEPTIVE TO THE IDEA. SHOULD THE PRESIDENT PROPOSE A FRIENDSHIP FORCE VISIT TO BERLIN, AND I RECOMMEND THAT HE DO SO, IT WOULD BE GOOD TO KEEP IN MIND THAT NEXT YEAR WILL BE THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEGINNING OF THE BERLIN AIRLIFT, AND A FRIENDSHIP FORCE VISIT (AS WELL AS ANY OTHER VISITS BY PROMINENT AMERICANS) MIGHT BE TIED IN WITH THA THEME. GEORGE

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## Message Attributes

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